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carry them away. But, if you really desire them, well, you can take them at his valuation or leave them. And he would prefer this latter alternative. However, the purchase once completed, he follows David's sensible example after his baby's death, and becomes cheerful in the face of the irremediable. He goes into another room, leaving us with the cakes and tea that he has ordered for our entertainment, and returns in a moment with some little fragile, charming present of courtesy—some little carving in wood or kettle in coloured faience. So he bows us out and returns to his meditations in the fragrant dusk of his cavern.

**The Australian Handbook (including New Zealand, Fiji, and New Guinea) for 1905.** 676 pp., Directory and Business Guide, 223 pp., 4 Pictures, 34 Maps and Index. Gordon & Gotch, London, Melbourne, etc., 1905.

Contains a large variety of facts important for every one who wishes special information about the Australian Commonwealth and other British possessions in the Pacific Ocean. Much space is devoted to the exploration, the geography and geology, resources and statistics of each State and colony. All towns are briefly described, and the tariff schedules, land and mining regulations, etc., are given. The maps include black railroad maps of each State and colony, coloured maps of the same subdivisions; plans of Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide, Wellington, Auckland, Dunedin, Christchurch, and Brisbane; the distribution of minerals in New South Wales, and 4 maps in colours showing the present condition of exploration in Australia, its orographical features, mean annual rainfall, and distribution of vegetation and cultivated crops.

**Wanderings in the Great Forests of Borneo.** By Odoardo Beccari. Translated by Dr. Enrico H. Giglioli, and revised and edited by F. H. H. Guillemard. xxiv, and 424 pp., 61 Illustrations, Maps of Borneo and Sarawak, Appendix and Index. Archibald Constable & Co., Ltd., London, 1904. (Price, 16s.)

Dr. Beccari only recently prepared for publication this account of his researches in natural history in Sarawak, North Borneo, though the work he describes was done nearly forty years ago. The scientific world will be glad that he yielded to the advice of his friends and has written this interesting and sympathetic story of nature as he found it in Borneo. The work is not out of date, because, as Lady Brooke told Dr. Beccari and as Dr. Guillemard assures his English readers, the vast primeval forests through which the author leads the way in so interesting a manner are to-day as they have been from almost the beginning of things. This record of his early work in Borneo comes after many years of travel and exploration, whose scientific results have been published and whose collections have enriched the great museums of Italy and other countries. His wide knowledge of his special topics gives much value to his descriptions and his theories, though many may not agree with his views as to the origin of species.

**The Cultivation and Preparation of Para Rubber.** By W. H. Johnson. viii and 99 pp., 6 Illustrations and Index. Crosby Lockwood & Son, London, 1904. (Price, 7s. 6d.)

The fact that the supply of rubber collected from trees and vines growing wild in the forests, bids fair, before many years, to be inadequate for the needs of commerce, gives large importance to the present efforts to develop rubber plantations. Many of these enterprises have met with poor success, as was to be expected in the stage of experimentation. Rubber-planting, however, is increasing in Brazil and in the Congo Free State, and has prospered in an exceptional manner in Ceylon and the Malay Peninsula, where it is developing into a large industry.

The Pará rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) is the plant that seems to have flourished